

<b>POLICY OF</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
<b>STATE OF DELAWARE</b>	I-04	1 OF 2
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION</b>	<b>RELATED NCCHC STANDARDS:</b> P-I-04 (IMPORTANT)	
<b>CHAPTER: 11 HEALTH SERVICES</b>	<b>SUBJECT: END OF LIFE DECISION</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER:</b>		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-19-07</b>		

**Purpose:**

To allow the terminally ill inmate to participate in medical care decisions during the terminal stages.

**Policy:**

1. End-of-life medical care decision-making options are discussed with terminally ill inmates.
2. The Advanced Directives format approved by the state of Delaware is presented to and discussed with the inmate.
3. A terminally ill inmate may request to not have cardiopulmonary resuscitation performed when housed in the infirmary or other special medical housing area. This is known as a Do Not Resuscitate Order.
4. Documentation in the medical record includes:
  - a. Extent of information that is shared with the inmate to make an end of life decision.
  - b. Consultation between the inmate and members of the clergy or other non-healthcare staff has taken place if requested by the inmate
  - c. A mental health consultation has judged that the inmate is competent to make an end-of-life decision.
5. The physician will write a “DO NOT RESUSCITATE” order when the inmate has an executed Advanced Directive requesting no cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
6. The inmate with a DO NOT RESUSCITATE order will be readily identifiable to the health care team.
7. Orders for “DO NOT RESUSCITATE” do not preclude other indicated medical and nursing care. Provisions of an executed Advanced Directive assist in guiding end of life medical care treatments.

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8. Do Not Resuscitate orders and/or Advanced Directive when initially written or received are reviewed with the Regional Medical Director. Prior to withholding or withdrawing care based on an Advanced Directive, the Regional Medical Director and Medical Society of Delaware will review the patient's course of care and prognosis.
9. The inmate may rescind "DO NOT RESUSCITATE" requests or any part or the entire Advanced Directive at any time.
10. "DO NOT RESUSCITATE" requests and the executed Advanced Directive are discussed with the terminal inmate monthly and renewed or changed to reflect the desire of the inmate.
11. Mental health staff and clergy will be requested to discuss the decision with the inmate to evaluate the inmate's understanding of the decision.
12. The Institutional Authority will be notified of any terminally ill inmate who has requested a "no cardiopulmonary resuscitation" order or has executed an Advanced Directive.
13. If the inmate approves, the family will be contacted.
14. The mentally incompetent patient is not able to make end-of life-decisions.
15. A copy of the inmate's Advanced Directive is sent with the inmate whenever receiving health care off site.
16. Request from an inmate for a durable power of attorney for healthcare decisions is addressed on a case-by-case basis with the facility legal department.

References:

National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Jails, 2003, J-I-04